

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 024979

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 6, 1974 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. SPRATLYS SQUABBLE CONTINUES. SVN AND PRC APPEAR TO MOVE STEP CLOSER TO CONFRONTATION WITH GVN REJECTION OF PRC CLAIM AND REASSERTION OF OWN SOVEREIGNTY OVER DISPUTED ISLANDS. ESTIMATED 300 GVN TROOPS ON ISLANDS. REINFORCEMENTS SENT LAST WEEK, ACCORDING TO GVN MFA, SINCE IN VIEW OF "RECENT ARMED AGGRESSION IN THE PARACELS", GVN MUST "NATURALLY THINK OF IMPROVING" DEFENSE AND ADMIN OF SPRATLYS. ROC HAS ABOUT 500 MEN ON ITU ABA, ONE OF LARGER ISLANDS, AND PHILS UNCLASSIFIED

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OCCUPY THREE SMALL ONES. GVN NAVAL SOURCES SAY TROOPS ORDERED TO LAND ON ALL UNOCCUPIED ISLANDS IN GROUP. REASONS FOR STRONG INTEREST OF PRC AND GVN UNKNOWN, MAY INVOLVE POSSIBLE OFFSHORE OIL, NATIONAL PRESTIGE,

AND STRATEGIC VALUE (REUTER NYT, SUN). SVN MILITARY SOURCES SAY NAVY COMMANDOS LAND ON ANOTHER SPRATLY, GIVING GVN CONTROL OF SIX (UPI PHINQ, CHITRIB; WP).

2. NAVY SPOKESMAN SAYS KOSH RETURNED TO US SUNDAY, HAS MILD CASE OF HEPATITIS SO WILL REMAIN IN QUARANTINE UNDER OBSERVATION AT PHILADELPHIA NAVAL BASE FOR "MORE THAN A FEW DAYS" (PHINQ).

3. ARVN REPORTS 75 COMMUNIST C-F VIOLATIONS IN PAST DAY. MILITARY SOURCES SAY VNAF PLANES STRAFED AND BOMBED COMMUNIST CONVOY IN PLEIKU, DESTROYED FOUR RUSSIAN-BUILT TRUCKS; 33 COMMUNISTS AND FOUR ARVN KIA IN REPORTED ATTACKS ON GVN POSTS IN FIVE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS PROVINCES MONDAY (UPI, PHINQ).

4. VC SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH GVN TO EXCHANGE MORE THAN 4000 CIVIL AND MIL POWS OVER THREE-WEEK PERIOD STARTING FRIDAY. EXCHANGE SUSPENDED IN JULY, SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY LAST APRIL 30 UNDER TERMS OF C-F AGREEMENT. BOTH SIDES SAY POWS COVERED IN RECENT AGREEMENT ARE ONLY ONES HELD BUT EACH SIDE INSISTS THAT OTHER IS HOLDING MORE THAN IT HAS ACKNOWLEDGED (AP, NYT).

5. REBELS SLIP THROUGH PP DEFENSE LINE, SHELL REFUGEE CAMP AND CIGARETTE FACTORY ON OUTSKIRTS. FIRST TIME ENEMY HAS APPROACHED SO CLOSE TO CAPITAL, AND SHORT-RANGE MORTARS SPREAD PANIC AMONG REFUGEES (REUTER, NYT). REBELS OVERRUN GKR OUTPOST SE OF PP, KILL AT LEAST 15 CIVILIANS AND WOUND 25 IN MORTAR BARRAGE OF REFUGEE CAMP AND CIGARETTE FACTORY. REBEL RADIO ASKS PP PEOPLE TO "RISE UP" AGAINST "TRAITOROUS, NATION-SELLING BANDITS LED BY LON NOL". COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZERS DISTRIBUTE LEAFLETS THREATENING TERRORIST CAMPAIGN IN SW PP BY FRIDAY AND WARNING RESIDENTS TO FLEE (WP; UPI PHINQ, CHITRIB).
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6. MCCOMBS (WP) FROM PP REPORTS THAT 1500 FROM THE DHARMADUTA ASSN., POLITICALLY IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL GROUP OF BUDDHIST MONKS, PLAN TO START A THREE-DAY HUNGER STRIKE ON WEDNESDAY. RELIABLE SOURCES SAY STRIKE PRIVATELY HAS GO-AHEAD FROM OTHER IMPORTANT BUDDHIST ORDER. DECLARATION EXPLAINING REASONS DECRIES WAR "IN WHICH CAMBODIANS ARE KILLING ONE ANOTHER", CRITICIZES BOTH SIDES FOR DESTROYING AND DESECRATING PAGODAS, USING THEM FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. ASSN. PRES. IN INTERVIEW SAYS GKR SHOULD PAY FOR PAGODA DAMAGE, BLAMES FANK FOR MOVING OUT OF OCCUPIED PAGODAS AND LEAVING UNPROTECTED MONKS TO FACE CHARGES OF COLLABORATION BY REBELS. DESPITE KNOCKING GKR, PRES.

REITERATES SUPPORT FOR GOVT., POINTS OUT THAT MONKS WILL HOLD BLOOD DRIVE FOR FANK BEFORE GOING ON STRIKE. BUT IN APPARENT CONTRADICTION, DECLARATION CONTAINS STATEMENT OF NEUTRALITY, "NOT TO SUPPORT EITHER SIDE ESPECIALLY". DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS SEE NO IMMEDIATE THREAT TO GKR, BUT BUDDHIST ATTITUDES IMPORTANT BECAUSE

RELIGIOUS SUPPORT IS CORNERSTONE OF LON NOL'S POLICIES SINCE HE SELLS WAR AS RELIGIOUS STRUGGLE AGAINST ATHEISTIC VN COMMUNISM. GKR ALWAYS FEATURES LARGE GROUPS OF MONKS AT IMPORTANT CEREMONIES, AND UP TO NOW MONKS HAVE GIVEN UNWAVERING SUPPORT. STRIKE SEEMS TO BE FIRST SHIFT IN SUPPORT AND DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT MOVE TOWARD NEUTRALITY BY MONKS COULD SHARPLY INCREASE GKR'S INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES.

JAPAN

7. ON HEELS OF SEIZURE OF JAPANESE EMBASSY IN KUWAIT BY "RED ARMY" GUERRILLAS, OHIRA TELLS HURRIEDLY-CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE THAT GOJ WILL COMPLY WITH GUERRILLAS' DEMANDS AND SEND AIR LINER TO SINGAPORE TO TRANSPORT TERRORISTS ON HIJACKED FERRY THERE TO KUWAIT (REUTER). EARLIER REPORTS SAID JAPANESE TERRORISTS ABOARD FERRY HAD ASKED THAT NK HELP ARRANGE SAFE CONDUCT TO PYONGYANG UNCLASSIFIED

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(REUTER NYT, SUN; UPI, CHITRIB; WP). TOKYO POLICE RAID OFFICES OF FOUR RADICAL GROUPS, SEIZE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO LAST WEEK'S ATTACK ON SINGAPORE OIL REFINERY BY JAPANESE AND ARAB EXTREMISTS (UPI, NYDN).

8. KYOWA DRUG CO. ANNOUNCES PLANS TO MARKET ANTI-CANCER DRUG (MITOMYCIN-C) IN US, THROUGH TIE-UP WITH BRISTOL-MYERS. SAYS FDA LAST MONTH AUTHORIZED MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF DRUG IN US; ADDS THAT IT ALREADY HAS APPROVAL FOR PRODUCTION AND SALES OF DRUG IN ABOUT 30 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING PRC (REUTER).

9. NYT'S BUTTERWORTH, IN TOKYO, REPORTS EXPERTS THERE BELIEVE JAPAN LIKELY TO REMAIN OVERWHELMINGLY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTED OIL THROUGH NEXT DECADE AND LONGER. THIS PESSIMISTIC ESTIMATE HAS RAISED CONCERN ABOUT JAPAN'S LONG-RUN COMPETITIVE ECON POSITION. NATION'S ONE HOPE IN SHORT RUN, SCIENTISTS SAY, IS NUCLEAR POWER; BUT GOVT. PROGRAM IS FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE AND THERE IS DEEP EMOTIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL OPPOSITION TO NUKE POWER PLANTS. POSSIBLE OIL RESERVES IN E. CHINA SEA FACE HURDLE OF BITTER

TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH PRC AND GRC. GIVEN ALL THESE PROBLEMS, SOME GOJ OFFICIALS BELIEVE JAPAN MUST REORDER BASIC NATIONAL PRIORITIES IF SHE IS TO OVERCOME DEPENDENCE ON OIL.

10. KYODO REPORTS PRC HAS AGREED TO SUPPLY JAPAN 12 MILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL DURING 1974 (UPI, JOC). FINMINISTRY DISCLOSES THAT JAPAN'S RAPIDLY GROWING TRADE WITH PRC SURPASSED 2 MILLION DOLLAR MARK FOR NEW RECORD IN 1973 (UPI, JOC).

11. CHITRIB'S DON KIRK IN TOKYO OBSERVES JAPANESE HOUSEWIVES NOW ON DETERGENT CAMPAIGN, HAVING BEEN VICTORIOUS IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO PREVENT PRODUCERS FROM HOARDING TO RAISE PRICE OF TOILET PAPER. MITI CURRENTLY SPOT-CHECKING FLOW OF KEY CONSUMER ITEMS TO PREVENT HOARDING.

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CHINA

12. UPI HK REPORTS PRC FEB. 4 COMMUNIQUE, PUBLISHED TUESDAY BY NCNA, WARNING JAPAN AND SK THAT THEIR JOINT PROJECT TO DEVELOP NATURAL RESOURCES OF E. CHINA SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF INFRINGES ON CHINESE SOVEREIGNTY (HK UPI WP, JOC, NYDN; ALSO AFP, PHINQ). CHINA'S VICE-MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL TRADE, CHOU HUA-MING, ARRIVED IN TUNIS FOR FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT AND TRADE TALKS, ACCORDING GOT OFFICIALS (UPI, PHINQ).

13. REUTER'S SHARP, IN PEKING, REPORTS CHINESE PRESS, INVOKING MAOIST DICTUM "WITHOUT DESTRUCTION THERE CAN BE NO CONSTRUCTION," ISSUED FRESH APPEAL WEDNESDAY TO EACH CHINESE TO DECLARE STAND IN CURRENT MILITANT SURGE AGAINST FORCES OF REACTION; SAYS CAMPAIGN THAT IS EMERGING IS "MOST IMPORTANT MASS MOVEMENT IN CHINA SINCE GPCR. WHILE NO CURRENT MEMBERS OF CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAVE COME UNDER DIRECT ATTACK, USE OF MAO PHRASE REINFORCES BELIEF OF MANY OBSERVERS THAT THERE WILL BE POLITICAL CASUALTIES BEFORE CAMPAIGN ENDS. VAST PUBLICITY GIVEN CAMPAIGN SUGGESTS IT IS MEETING OPPOSITION, SHARP ADDS; AND STRIDENT TONE IN LANGUAGE USED TO PROMOTE ANTI-LIN, ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN "IS IN SHARP CONTRAST" TO RELAXED MOOD IN CHINA DURING PAST TWO YEARS OR SO -- "CONVINCING MANY OBSERVERS THAT CHINA IS WINDING ITSELF UP" FOR "THOROUGH POLITICAL SHAKE-DOWN."

THAILAND

14. SIX TEENAGERS FROM US SCHOOL IN SINGAPORE PLEAD
GUILTY ON APPEARANCE IN COURT WEDNESDAY ON SACRILEGE

CHARGES (CLIMBING ATOP BUDDHA IMAGE LAST WEEK).
JUDGE WILL PASS SENTENCE FRIDAY; MAXIMUM PENALTY IS
FINE OR THREE YEARS IN JAIL (REUTER).

,5. CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN BANGKOK AND FOUR NEARBY
15. CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN BANGKOK AND FOUR NEARBY
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PROVINCES HAS KILLED TWO AND STRICKEN 23 OTHERS WITHIN
PAST FEW WEEKS (AP WP, NYDN).

PHILIPPINES

16. GOP PROTESTS FORMALLY TO GVN AND GRC OVER TROOPS'
PRESENCE IN SPRATLYS (WP, PHINQ, NYT).

17. GOVT. ARTILLERY AND JETS POUND MUSLIM REBELS IN
HILLS NEAR JOLO IN FIERCE SWING AWAY FROM FIVE-MONTH
"POLICY OF ATTRACTION" (AP SUN, PHINQ).

NZ, AUSTRALIA

18. DEMONSTRATORS THROW GASOLINE BOMB AND FIREWORKS
AS QUEEN ELIZABETH AND DUKE ARRIVE AT WAITANGI TREATY
HOUSE; COUPLE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO SEE IDENTITIES, AND
NO SERIOUS DAMAGE (REUTER). GNZ ORDERS FIVE PER CENT
CUT IN ELECTRIC POWER; TV BROADCASTS TO END BY 10 PM
BEGINNING MONDAY. GAS SALES BANNED NEXT WEEKEND, AND
GOVT. EXPECTED TO BAN SUNDAY DRIVING AND INTRODUCE
CARLESS DAYS (UPI JOC, NYT).

19. WOODSIDE-BURMAH AND PARTNERS IN NW AUSSIE SHELF
TAKE FIRST STEPS TOWARD OBTAINING PRODUCTION LICENSE
FOR THREE MAJOR GAS DISCOVERIES (JOC). MELBOURNE
POLICE REPORT SEIZING 12 MILLION DOLS IN COUNTERFEIT
US 20-DOLLAR BILLS IN RAIDS MONDAY (AP, CHITRIB).

20. LAT'S LAMB (FEB. 4) IN BERRIMAH WRITES PIECE ON
WORK OF SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS IN DECIPHERING
AND PRESERVING ABORIGINE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE. WORK
BEING CONDUCTED UNDER DAVID GLASGOW, AN AUSTRALIAN
WHO HEADS ABORIGINE STUDIES BRANCH OF INSTITUTE,
HEADQUARTERED IN SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA.

KOREA

21. AP SEOUL (CHITRIB) AND CSM NOTE FIVE WELL-KNOWN
SK LITERARY FIGURES ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH SPYING
FOR NK, AND REPORT ROKG SAYING SEVERAL OTHER PROMINENT

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PERSONS BEING INVESTIGATED ON SUSPICION OF ESPIONAGE.
WP'S OBERDORFER, IN SEOUL, OBSERVES THAT THESE ARRESTS

ARE FIRST IN WHICH ESPIONAGE CHARGES LEVELED. ADDS
THAT HARDLY ANY DETAILS OF ALLEGED SPYING WERE MADE
PUBLIC, AND AMONG "EVIDENCE" DISPLAYED FOR PRESS WERE
COPIES OF WELL-KNOWN LITERARY AND CURRENT AFFAIRS
MAGAZINES OF GENERAL CIRCULATION PUBLISHED IN JAPAN.

INDONESIA

22. MALIK SAYS GOI PROPOSES TO BECOME LINK BETWEEN
ASEAN AND S. PACIFIC REGIONAL COOPERATION GROUPING
PLANNED BY NZ (AFP, WP).

AMBASSADORIAL NOMINATIONS

23. PRES. NAMES PHIL MANHARD ENVOY TO MAURITIUS,
JOHN GUNTHER DEAN TO GKR AND ROBERT FRITTS TO RWANDA
(AP; UPI, NYDN).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

24. LENGTHY GREENWAY STORY FROM HK (WP) REPEATS
SOME OF LELYVELD'S NYT REPORT COVERED IN YESTERDAY'S
SUMMARY. HE QUOTES FROM HUNAN, HUPEI AND SHANGHAI
RADIO BROADCASTS AND ALLUDES TO REPORTS FROM OTHER
AREAS OF MASS RALLIES AND BIG CHARACTER POSTERS
ATTACKING CONFUCIUS AND LIN PIAO. ALSO QUOTES
EXTENSIVELY FROM PEOPLES DAILY'S FEB. 2 ARTICLE.
"ANALYSTS" SAY CRITICAL VOICES WHICH INCREASINGLY
SUGGEST THAT REGIME IS BACKSLIDING FROM GPCR IDEALS
BELONG TO LEFTISTS WHO OBJECT FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS,
OR FEAR THEIR POWER POSITION IS BEING ERODED IN
PROCESS OF REHABILITATING OLD CADRES. NO ONE,
SAYS GREENWAY, IS SURE WHO THESE LEFTISTS ARE BUT
SOME CHINA WATCHERS CONCLUDE THAT ULTIMATE TARGET
OF ATTACKS MAY BE CHOU, WHO HAS PRESIDED OVER MANY
OF THE POST-GPCR POLICIES DESCRIBED IN WEST AS
"MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC". AS FOR MAO, WE KNOW
TOO LITTLE OF WHAT GOES ON TO PREDICT HIS INTENTIONS.
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CHINA WATCHERS SAY LIU SHAO-CH'I AND LIN PIAO FELL
IN PART BECAUSE THEY BECAME TOO IMPORTANT AND THREATENED
TO ECLIPSE MAO. BUT CHOU, ALTHOUGH IMPORTANT,
HAS MANAGED TO SURVIVE ALL PURGES AND IT IS BY
NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT MAO IS OUT TO GET HIM NOW.

CONCLUDES THAT WE DO NOT KNOW WHO THE TARGETS OF CURRENT CAMPAIGN ARE, OR HOW FAR THE CAMPAIGN WILL GO, BUT "NO ANALYST HERE EXPECTS A QUICK RETURN TO TRANQUILITY."

25. NYT'S LELYVELD IN HK REPORTS THAT CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE CONFUCIUS AND LIN HAS ENTERED STAGE WHERE "STUDY GROUPS" AND "MASS CRITICISM GROUPS" ARE BEING ORGANIZED TO MOBILIZE MASS SUPPORT. OBSERVES CAUTION AMONG "ANALYSTS OF CHINESE AFFAIRS" IN FORECASTING ULTIMATE COURSE OF CAMPAIGN WHICH IS DOMINATING CHINESE MEDIA AS NO OTHER SUBJECT HAS SINCE GPCR. NOTES THAT AS DURING GPCR, CCP OFFICIALS ARE BEING WARNED AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE WITH EFFORT TO INVOLVE MASSES; BUT CURRENT CAMPAIGN, UNLIKE GPCR, WHEN RED GUARDS WERE USED TO ATTACK PARTY OFFICIALDOM, STILL APPEARS TO BE UNDER PARTY SUPERVISION. REFERS TO BROADCASTS FROM SZECHUAN SHENSI, HUNAN AND TSINGHAI AMONG THOSE MONITORED IN HK. NOTES THAT NCNA FEB. 4 DISPATCH DEVOTED LENGTHY ARTICLE TO MODEL "STUDY GROUP" IN SHANGHAI THAT CALLS ITSELF THE YOUNG VANGUARDS; GROUP HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE. LARGE "MOBILIZATION RALLIES" REPORTED IN CENTRAL CHINA PROVINCES. UNLIKE EARLY STAGES OF GPCR WHEN SIX TOP CCP OFFICIALS WERE DENOUNCED AND PURGED, THIS TIME THERE HAVE BEEN NO OPEN THREATS AGAINST ELEMENTS OF LEADERSHIP. POSSIBILITY THAT CONFLICTS WILL EMERGE AS CAMPAIGN PROGRESSES, HOWEVER, IS NOT RULED OUT. ALSO, THERE HAVE BEEN NO TRACES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS AND CULTURAL TREASURES THAT CHARACTERIZED EARLY STAGES OF GPCR. ON CONTRARY, THERE IS MARKED EMPHASIS ON DISCIPLINE. BROADCASTS FREQUENTLY REFER TO MOVEMENT AS "A REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE" OR A "REVOLUTION" OR A "PEOPLE'S WAR." GOING FURTHER, THEY DESCRIBE IT AS RENEWAL OF THE GPCR, QUOTING MAO THAT ONE CULTURAL REVOLUTION WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH

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FOR CHINA. HOWEVER, NO BROADCAST HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO DECLARE CURRENT ONE AS THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF THE GPCR. LELYVELD OBSERVES THAT ONE PHRASE REPEATED IN SHENSI, HUNAN AND TSINGHAI BROADCASTS DESCRIBES MOVEMENT AS "A SOCIALIST REVOLUTION IN THE SUPER-STRUCTURE" - MARXIST TERM TO DESCRIBE THE BODY OF VALUES, CUSTOMS, BELIEFS AND IDEOLOGIES THAT A GIVEN CLASS STRUCTURE PRODUCES.

26. CSM EDIT REFERS TO MAO'S DECREE OPENING SECOND ROUND OF "CULTURAL REVOLUTION." NOTES THAT ORIGINAL GPCR VERY NEARLY WRECKED THE ECONOMY, EDUCATION STOPPED, CCP AND GOVT. BUREAUCRACY SHAKEN UP. SO FAR THERE HAS NOT BEEN A REVIVAL OF "RED GUARDS" WHO VERY NEARLY

GOT DECISIVE CONTROL THROUGHOUT MOST OF CHINA
DURING THE ORIGINAL ROUND;

INSTEAD MILITIA UNITS OF FACTORY WORKERS HAVE BEEN
FORMED, PERHAPS TO PREVENT REPETITION OF UNDISCIPLINED
YOUNGER GENERATION GETTING CONTROL AS DURING GPCR.
EXPRESSES HOPE THAT THIS TIME DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH
THERE IS NOTHING ANY OUTSIDE GOVT. CAN DO ABOUT,
WILL BE KEPT UNDER REASONABLE CONTROL SINCE CHINA
IS A STABILIZING FACTOR IN THE WORLD - BALANCING
OFF SOVIET POWER IN ASIA.

27. IRENE BACKALENICK INTERVIEWS GLEN LEET, PRES.
OF SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION AND MEMBER OF CHILD
WELFARE DELEGATION VISITING PRC LAST YEAR (CSM).
LEET SAYS CHINESE CHILDREN ARE HAPPY, OUTGOING, TAUGHT
TO PLAY GAMES FOR FRIENDSHIP, NOT TO BEAT OTHER PEOPLE.
PART OF THEIR TRAINING AND THEIR GAMES IS THAT THEY
MUST HELP EACH OTHER; HISTORY AND IDEOLOGY ARE ABSORBED
THROUGH PLAY. NOTES THAT LONG-STANDING US-PRC HOSTILITY
STILL IS REFLECTED OCCASIONALLY IN GAMES, OBSERVING
BOARD GAME LIKE CHESS, IN WHICH TWO ARMIES CONFRONTED ONE
ANOTHER. VILLAINS WERE PINK-NOSED AMERICAN SOLDIERS;
HEROES WERE STALWART CHINESE SOLDIERS. OBJECT OF
GAME WAS TO BEAT THE AMERICANS SOUNDLY.

28. CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN HK SAYS THAT WHILE NEWS
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AGENCY REPORTS FROM PEKING INDICATED PRC WOULD IF
NECESSARY ACT JUST AS DECISIVELY IN SPRATLYS AS THEY
DID IN PARACELS, SOME DIPLOMATS THINK IT LIKELY PRC
WILL TRY OTHER FORMS OF PRESSURE TO ASSERT CLAIM
OVER SPRATLYS BEFORE TAKING MILITARY ACTION. THINKS
THIEU HAS AIMS OTHER THAN ASSERTION OF VIET RIGHTS
OVER ISLAND IN CONFRONTATION WITH CHINESE HE CAN'T
HOPE TO WIN. HE MAY BE HOPING TO STIR UP NATIONALISTIC
FEELINGS AGAINST CHINA, TRADITIONAL ENEMY OF THE
VIETS, AND TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM HIS CRITICAL
DOMESTIC PROBLEMS - WHICH INCLUDE CONTINUING LOW-
LEVEL WAR AND STEADILY DETERIORATING ECONOMY. CHAMPION-
ING OF VIET CLAIM ALSO APPEARS TO PUT HANOI AND PRG
IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION. VIET COMMUNISTS CAN
HARDLY CRITICIZE THEIR CHINESE ALLY, BUT NEITHER
WOULD THEY WANT TO APPEAR TO BE RENOUNCING CLAIM
TO PARACELS AND SPRATLYS. THIEU MAY ALSO BE HOPING
TO GET US MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED ON HIS BEHALF BY PROVOKING
TROUBLE OVER THE ISLANDS, BUT SOUTHERLAND NOTES THAT
US SAYS IT IS NOT GOING TO TAKE SIDES. REPORTS LOW-
LEVEL GVN OFFICIALS LEAKED REPORTS THAT SAIGON ASKED
US TO INTERVENE WITH 7TH FLEET IN PARACELS FIGHTING.
BUT US OFFICIALS IN SAIGON SAY THIS WAS NOT SO.

29. LAT'S MCARTHUR (FEB. 4) IN PP SEES CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS GOING.FOR-BROKE IN ASSAULT ON CAPITAL; CITES SOME US OFFICIALS AS SAYING "SUPREME CHALLENGE" IS AT HAND. ALSO QUOTES ONE OFFICIAL AS CHARACTERIZING COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE AGAINST PP AS ONE OF "INTIMIDATION, FORCE AND PURE TERRORISM. THEY HOPE TO ERODE MORALE SO THE CITY WILL FALL OF ITS OWN WEIGHT. . . THEY ARE NOT AFTER HEARTS AND MINDS." MCARTHUR SAYS THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT MILITARY DEPARTMENT OF THE CAMBODIAN CP - WHICH NOW EFFECTIVELY DICTATES TACTICAL CONDUCT OF WAR - DECIDED MONTHS AGO TO MAKE THIS A GO-FOR-BROKE CAMPAIGN. IN PREPARATION FOR CAMPAIGN, CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED WITH COSVN FOR MORE SPECIALIZED SAPPER TROOPS AND AMMO, BUT FAILED TO GET COSVN TO GRANT THEIR REQUEST TO "BORROW" THE VETERAN NVN 9TH DIVISION. MCARTHUR REPORTS THAT FEW WOULD DENY THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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A GOOD CHANCE FOR TAKING PP, BUT STRONGEST DISSENT COMES FROM EMBASSY PP. CITES EMBASSY, UNDER ENDERS, WHO HAS "WELL-EARNED HAWKISH REPUTATION," AS REPORTING TO WASHINGTON THAT SLUGGISH FANK MAY JUST BE "TURNING THE CORNER." ENDERS AND GEN. CLELAND FEEL THAT THIS IS PROBABLY THE WAR'S DECISIVE CAMPAIGN AND THAT FANK WILL PERFORM CREDITABLY IF NOT WITH MUCH ELAN. THEN NEGOTIATED END TO WAR MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. US OFFICERS SAY FANK HAS FUNCTIONED BETTER IN LAST SIX MONTHS THAN EVER BEFORE. FANK NOW HAS REPLACEMENT SYSTEM; ARTILLERY HAS IMPROVED; THE MUCH-RIDICULED AIR FORCE DRAWS OCCASIONAL PRAISE; AND LON NOL INTERFERES LESS IN MILITARY AFFAIRS.

30. CSM'S POND IN TOKYO INTERVIEWS OKITA, LEADING JAPANESE ECONOMIST, ON DEVELOPMENT AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SAYS AID WILL CONTINUE DESPITE OIL CRISIS AND BALANCE-OF-PAYMENT SQUEEZE, THAT JAPAN MUST CONTINUE AID TO LDCS TO ASSURE ITS OWN RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIES. HE TERMS LOANS TO ME "AN ADVANCE FOR IMPORTS," OR SUPPLIER'S CREDIT, NOTING THAT KUWAIT, FOR EXAMPLE, TOLD JAPAN IT DOES NOT WANT CAPITAL NOW FROM TOKYO, BUT ONLY TECHNOLOGY - "PLANT" EXPORTS. THUS, JAPAN WOULD HAVE ENOUGH FUNDS AND ENOUGH FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO CONTINUE OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO SEA AND OTHER COUNTRIES AT ABOUT THEIR PRESENT LEVEL. OKITA ALSO ECHOED TANAKA'S RESPONSE TO ANTI-JAPANESE RIOTS IN SEA BY SAYING THAT MORE AID IN THE REGION SHOULD BE CHANNLED THROUGH GOVT. RATHER THAN THROUGH "AGGRESSIVE" PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. HE SUGGESTED THAT GOVT.-SPONSORED AID PROGRAM MIGHT EMPHASIZE BASICS

INDUSTRIES RATHER THAN INDUSTRIES LIKE TEXTILES THAT
ARE MORE PROFITABLE FROM PRIVATE BUSINESSMAN'S VIEWPOINT.
SUCH TREND WOULD HELP AVERT INSTANCES WHERE JAPANESE
FIRMS COMPETE WITH LESS EFFICIENT LOCAL ENTERPRISES.

31. JOE ALSOP(WP, SUN) SEES STORM SIGNALS IN REPORTED
SOVIET EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE SPRING MEETING OF CP LEADERS,
MOUNTING VICIOUSNESS OF USSR-PRC POLEMICS AND PRC
EXPULSION OF SOVIET DIPLOMATS. THIS SUMMER IS PROBABLY
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THE TIME WHEN SOVIET GENERAL STAFF WILL TELL THE POLITBURO,
"IF YOU WANT TO ATTACK CHINA, IT'S NOW OR NEVER" -
BECAUSE OF PRC'S NUCLEAR PROGRESS. INDICATES THAT
IN FACE OF IMPEACHMENT ATTEMPTS AGAINST PRES., US
CANNOT ACT AGAINST THREATENED SOVIET PREVENTIVE ATTACK
ON PRC. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEBRUARY 6, 1974 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US, PG, CH, VS, VN
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
HONG KONG
NHA TRANG

JEC PARIS INFO USSAG NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COGARD POLAD
XMT SUVA

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005